

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant provides herein a clean version of all pending claims as requested by the Examiner in Paper No. 15.

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A catheter unit comprising:

a housing removeably coupled to a tubular introducer sheath, the tubular introducer sheath having a proximal end, a distal end, and a hollow lumen extending longitudinally therethrough;

a needle having a sharpened distal tip and a hollow bore extending longitudinally therethrough, the needle being disposed coaxially within the lumen of the introducer sheath;

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an elongated blunting member having a hollow lumen extending longitudinally therethrough and having an open proximal end adjacent to a flash chamber and a blunt distal tip, the elongated blunting member being disposed coaxially within the bore of the needle; the blunting member being axially moveable from a non-blunting position wherein the blunt distal tip of the blunting member is positioned within the bore of the needle a spaced distance proximal to the sharpened distal tip of the needle, to a distally advanced blunting position wherein the blunt distal tip of the blunting member protrudes out of and beyond the sharpened distal tip of the needle;

a moveable member coupled to the blunting member to engage an outer surface of the introducer sheath and to advance the blunting member to the distally advanced blunting position when the sheath is removed; and

a porous member which is coupled to the housing.

15. (Previously Presented) The catheter unit of claim 14, further comprising:

a lumen in the blunting member for blood to flow which extends longitudinally through the blunting member, the lumen in communication with the flash chamber; and

the assembly being thereby operative such that when the distal end of the needle enters a vessel, such that fluid enters the bore of the needle and passes through the needle and then enters the

lumen of the blunting member and exits the blunting member by entering the flash chamber, such that the presence of blood within the flash chamber is visible through at least a transparent portion of the flash chamber.

16. (Original) The catheter unit of claim 14, wherein the porous member is functionally open allowing fluid from a patient to exit the catheter unit after thirty seconds of blood entering the flash chamber.

17. (Original) The catheter unit of claim 14, wherein the porous member is removable.

18. (Original) The catheter unit of claim 14, wherein the porous member includes cotton high-density polyethylene or ultra high molecular weight polyethylene.

19. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 14, wherein the porous number has a porosity that ranges from about 35% to about 55%.
